APRIL 1, 1952

Belgians Want Radio Contact

If efforts of a Belgian radio executive are successful, residents of Door county's Belgian settlement will soon have an opportunity to talk directly to relatives and friends in the land of their ancesters.

The other day, Dr. Joseph Pierre, a former resident of Door county and now a soils specialist at Champaign, Ill., received a letter from E. Marechal, head of the National Belgium Institute of Radio Broadcasting, asking about the Walloon Belgians in Door county. Some time ago, Dr. Pierre had a visit from a farmer who had come to the United States from Belgium to study agriculture. The farmer told Marechal about Door county after he returned home.

Thinking that WOKW could do something about the request for radio contact, Dr. Pierre forwarded the letter to Sturgeon Bay. Since standard band radio stations cannot communicate outside their limits, the letter has been turned over to George Gabert one of Sturgeon Bay's short wave operators.

Mr. Gabert said he has frequently talked to people in Belgium in the past but sun spots have prevented contact this past winter and predictions are that they will be bad all year. Nevertheless, he will write to Marechal for an appointment on the air waves. If successful in establishing contact, he will set a date on which some of Door county's Belgians can gather at his home to get in on the conversation in their native tongue.

Dr. Pierre is a brother of Dr. William Pierre, a professor at Ames, Ia., and of Arthur Pierre at Brussels.